

Phase II and Phase III Project Cover Sheet

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REPORT INFORMATION:

2005 Lowthert, W., A.L. Fehr, A.B. Markell, and M.R. Williams
Phase I Archeological Survey of the Maryland Route 66 and Mt. Aetna Road Roundabout
and Phase III Data Recovery Investigations at Site 18WA487, Washington County, Maryland.
Submitted to the Maryland State Highway Administration

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Research Firm/Institution:

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Sites examined:

18WA487

NRHP Eligible: ☒

[Justification](#)

Project Details:

Phase I	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Project Justification:
Phase II	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The archeological investigations were conducted in anticipation of the proposed construction of a traffic circle at the intersection of Route 66 and Mt. Aetna Roads in Washington County, Maryland. One multi-component archeological site (18WA487) was identified during the Phase I/II stage and recommended for Phase III data recovery.
Phase III	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

MAC Accession: 2005.017

Project Objectives:

Phase I/II
-Identify archeological resources within the project's Area of Potential Effects (APE).

-Locate the boundaries of all identified sites.

-Assess the significance of any identified resources.

Phase III
-Mitigate the impact of anticipated construction project impacts by addressing specific research questions (detailed below) that the site seems capable of answering (based on preliminary analysis of Phase I/II data).

1) How did prehistoric populations in Central Maryland procure rhyolite for their own use and for exchange with other groups? Did procurement involve interaction with groups "controlling" the source and what did that entail?
2) How are rhyolite procurement strategies "embedded" in local settlement systems in areas close to the rhyolite quarries?
3) What diagnostic artifacts (lithic or otherwise) are found in association with one another at the site, and how do such objects differ from their counterparts near the raw material source (i.e. near the rhyolite source)?
4) What kinds of plant and animal resources did the occupants of the site exploit?

Research Potential:

Excavations at Site 18WA487 were perhaps one of the few opportunities we will have to conduct extensive archeological investigations on a site where the primary purpose appears to have been short-term occupation associated with extensive reduction of rhyolite recently removed from the South Mountain quarries. As such, data recovery was designed primarily to answer significant question in this regard. However, the research potential of the site was largely exhausted upon the completion of Phase III work and construction of the new Route 66 roundabout would have destroyed any remnants of the site.